Construction of Yatri Niwas Hotels in the Country

1873. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the progress made so far in the construction of Yatri Niwas hotels in diffierent parts of the country ;

(b) what is the bed strength in Yatri Niwas hotels at present in the country ;

(c) what would be the bed strength at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(d) what percentage of demand is likely to be met by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) 27 projects of Yatri Niwases under the Central Scheme have been sanctioned and funds released for their construction.

(b) The bed strength of the Yatri Niwas commissioned under this scheme at present is 68 beds.

(c) The likely bed strength in the Yatri Niwases at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan will be 368.

(d) The likely percentage of demand to be made by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan will be 23%.

Export of processed food

1874. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India and Shipping Corporation of India have limited space and charge very high rates for export of processed food ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The demand for air cargo capacity in the last three years has increased heavily and as outstripped supply, especially during the peak period which extends from January to July. To help exporters, the Central Government has permitted any carrier, scheduled or non-scheduled, to operate any number of flights to take cargo out of India durng this peak period. In addition, the national carrier also operates extra section flights.

Normally, cargo rates are agreed to by all airlines in I.A.T.A. forum and are applicable to all airlines. However, for perishable food articles, mandatory rates have been prescribed by Government which are considerably lower than I.A.T.A. rates.

As regards Shipping Corporation of India, it has adequate space and offer adequate services for serving Indian exports. Shipping Corporation of Indian operates as a Conference line on most of the routes and as a member of the conferenes charges rates as fixed by the conferences.

Boeing aircraft

1875. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of Boeing aircraft with the IA/AI at present and how many of these have completed the flying hours ;

(b) what is the annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of Boeing aircraft stating the

percentage of rise in the maintenance expenditure during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) in how many a cases Boeing aircraft had to force landing because of development of certain defects;

(d) whether Government are aware of the increasing air crashes involving Boeing aircraft and growing complaints from the various international airlines about its design, safety and quality ; and

(e) if so, whether in view of the experience gained and the opinion of the international airlines, Government have considered the desirability of its continuance in the AI/IA fleet, if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) : (a) Indian Airlines has 30 Boeing B-737 (includes six on lease) aircraft and Air India has 12 Boeing B-747 aircraft. None of these aircraft have completed their stipulated design life.

(b) The annual expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines and Air India is as follows :—

Year	Annual Expenditure (Rs. in crores)	% increase
Indian Airlines		
1986-87	48.41	11.4
1987-88	57.05	17.8
1988-89 (Prov.)	58.00	1.7
Air India		
1985-86	42.68	2.82
1986-87	55.32	29.61
1987-88	56.85	2.77

(c) There have been no cases of forced lendings of Indian Airlines or Air India Boeing aircraft.

(d) and (e) There is no increase in air crashes involving Indian Airlines and Air India Boeing aircraft in the recent past. Neither Indian Airlines nor Air India has intention to discontinue operations with Boeing aircraft as none of the aircraft in their fleet has exceeded the economic design life.

Visit of Nepalese Foreign Minister to India

1876. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepalese Foreign Minister visited India recently and had discussions with the Government of India ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir; on March 26-27, 1989.

(b) During his Delhi visit in March 1989, the Foreign Minister of Nepal handed over a draft of a Trade Treaty. This draft clearly showed the desire of the Government of Nepal to move away from the preferential trade regime,